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ABSTRACT

This report provides a statistical portrait of Kentucky children's well-being, by county and in the state overall. Part 1 of the report, "Young Families in Peril," profiles poverty in the state, noting that the vast majority of poor families are working, married-couple households; however, families with household heads younger than 30 years are twice as likely to be poor as families with older household heads. Part 2, "State and County Data," gives narrative descriptions of trends and statewide and county statistics on child poverty, births, births to teenagers, single parents, students in school, and child abuse and neglect. Findings indicate that, during the 1980s: (1) child poverty increased from 20 to 25 percent; (2) the birth rate was stable, with an infant mortality rate of 8.0 per 1,000 live births in 1993; (3) county teenage birth rates are inversely related to county per capita income, with an overall teen birth rate of 21.4 per 1,000 population of females ages 12 through 17; (4) the number of children living with a single parent increased by 62%; (5) the transition rate (percentage of high school graduates who have gone on to further school and who are employed) averaged 93 percent, the state dropout rate (defined as the percentage of students enrolled in grades 7 to 12 who do not enroll in school the next year) is 3.5 percent, with about 46 percent of students eligible for a free or reduced price lunch; and (6) the number of children reported abused or neglected doubled. (KDFB)

KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN
County Data Book, 1994

kids count

KENTUCKY KIDS·COUNT

Funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Additional copies available from:
Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc.
2034 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
(502) 895-8167

KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN
County Data Book, 1994

Prepared by Kentucky KIDS COUNT Consortium

Text by
Kentucky Youth Advocates

Data Analysis by
Center for Urban and Economic Research,
University of Louisville

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All members of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT Consortium contributed to this report on the status of children in our state. However, the efforts of Michael Price and the staff at the Center for Urban and Economic Research at the University of Louisville were particularly crucial.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YOUNG FAMILIES IN PERIL

A SPECIAL STATISTICAL REPORT

The following special statistical report for the 1994 Kentucky KIDS COUNT report examines poverty among families with children in Kentucky. Families with household heads less than thirty are more likely to be poor. The vast majority of these families are working yet unable to bring their families income above the official poverty level.

YOUNG FAMILIES IN PERIL

The American dream may remain just a dream for many young families with children in Kentucky today. At no other time in our history, have so many young families with children been poor. But the real peril lies not just in the present but in their prospects for the future.

Child Poverty Increases

Much has been written about the astonishingly high poverty rates among children — rates higher than for any other age group in our nation.

In 1990, the latest year for which Census numbers on state level poverty among children is available, one in four (24.5 percent) Kentucky children was poor. The percentage of poor children in the Commonwealth grew over 15 percent from 1980. National trends suggest that poverty among children, especially younger children, has continued to increase in the 1990s.

Young Families at Risk

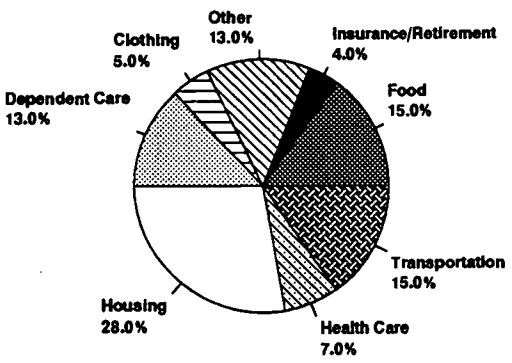
Sometimes we forget that children are poor along with their families. Families are poor because parents do not earn sufficient income to lift themselves and their children out of poverty. The table on the following page illustrates the dramatic increase in poverty for young families.

Lower Monthly Living Standard for a Family of Four in Kentucky, 1994

While this study focuses on families with incomes below the official federal poverty level, that level does not come close to capturing the true cost of a minimal standard of living. The methodology for the poverty level, set in the 1950s, has never been revised. The U.S. Department of Labor determines a lower monthly living standard for different regions of the country based on surveys of cost and lower income families' spending patterns.

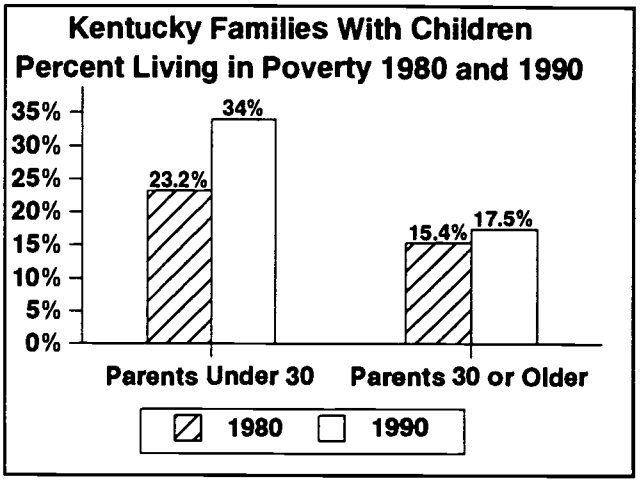
For Kentucky, we used the Southern Regional Standard, averaging the metro and non-metro amounts. The pie below shows how a typical family would budget $1,812 monthly in order to meet a minimal standard of living.

Total Income Required: $1,812 monthly ($21,750 annually)



- The 1994 official federal poverty level for a family of four is $1,230 monthly ($14,764 annually).
- A single wage earner must make at least $10 per hour to meet this basic living standard.

According to the 1990 Census, one in three (34 percent) families with children where the head of household was under 30 years old lived below poverty. The poverty rate for Kentucky families with children with older heads of households was 17.5 percent.



It may seem logical that more young families are poor, given that younger workers tend to make lower wages and the responsibilities of child care may interfere with full time work for one or both parents. In fact, when we compare 1990 and 1980 Census data for Kentucky families, poverty rates are consistently higher in both years for young families.

The startling finding is that in 1990 younger families with children were twice as likely to be poor as families with older heads of households. In 1980, younger families were also more likely to be poor, but not by as great a factor.

Rose Stacy, 27, describes herself as "the poor working for the poor." She is employed by an organization which provides help to low income individuals.

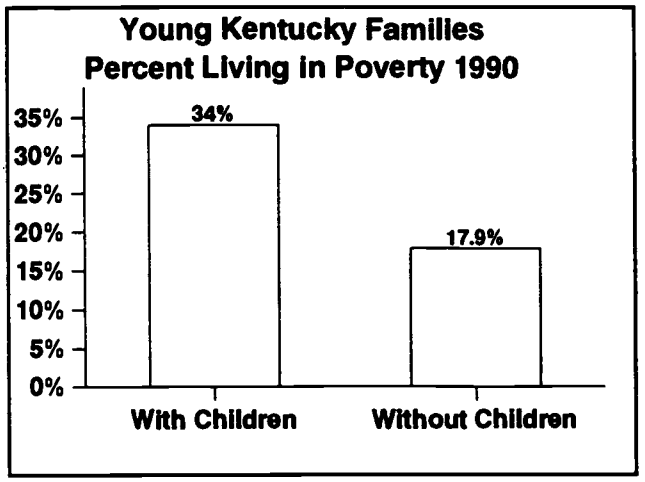
Rose and her husband have two children, 10 and 7. They both work full-time, but their combined income is just above the federal poverty level. They are not eligible for assistance under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, public health insurance, or subsidized child care. "If we didn't have such a patient babysitter floating us for the past three weeks, I don't know what we would do," says Rose. "Child care eats up all our pay."

Rose dreams of renovating their modest home. "I usually go without lunch every day to save money." Her house is heated by a coal burning stove. The floors are bare and the kitchen serves both as a kitchen and a bedroom. Until recently, the Stacy house lacked insulation and indoor plumbing.

The Stacy family is one of many poor working families. They subsist from day to day. Families like the Stacys fear illness. "We can't be sick," remarks Rose, "We just can't afford to be."

The Cost of Having Children

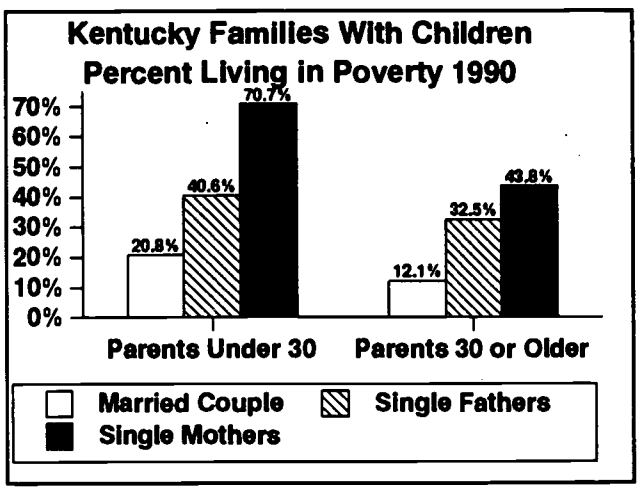
Increasingly, young families find it difficult to stretch their wages to provide for children. These families, with parents under 30 years old, are more likely to be poor than households of the same age without children. The data from the 1990 Census tell us that young Kentucky families with children are almost twice as likely to be poor as young families without children.



The reason behind this finding is partly as simple as the fact that families with more mouths to feed require more income. However, the alternative is for younger families to postpone having children. And often these adults are not sure things will be any better for them financially in five or ten years or that they will have the same energy for the stressful job of child rearing.

Poverty Extends Beyond Single Parent Families

We have come to understand that families are more likely to be poor if they are single parent families. However, the effect of the growing number of single female headed families on poverty trends is sometimes exaggerated experts say. Nationally, fewer than two in five poor people live in single female headed families and this proportion has remained steady since the late 1970s. In Kentucky, one half of all poor children live in married couple households. So our state's poverty problem is not just because of single parenthood, but because of changing economic realities. Too many jobs, and not just entry level jobs, fail to provide wages sufficient to raise a family.



Dawn and Bill have been married for eight years. Both are employed full-time but struggle day to day to make ends meet with the wages from their low paying jobs. Their income is too high to qualify for financial assistance from AFDC or food stamps. The couple is trying to raise three children on a combined income of $200 per week after taxes. Enormous medical bills incurred from three previous miscarriages eat away at what's left of the family's meager budget.

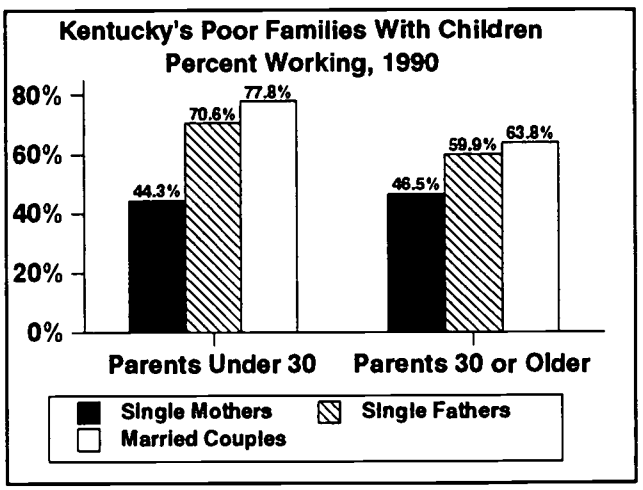
The family lives in a two bedroom trailer with mattresses on the floor for the children to sleep. Dawn and Bill are reluctant to take handouts, but have agreed to accept bunkbeds provided by a local family resource center at the neighborhood school.

In fact, the age of parents seems to be a major factor in likelihood that a family will be poor. All types of younger Kentucky families with children are more likely to be poor than older families with children. Younger married couples with children were almost twice as likely to be poor as older married couples with children. As the table on the previous page shows, single father and single mother families were more likely to be poor if the single parent was less than thirty.

Overall, it is true that families headed by young single mothers are the most likely to be poor, with 70.7 percent, or almost three in four of these families living below poverty in Kentucky in 1990. As the single mothers age, however, the poverty rate falls to almost 40 percent.

Families Working But Poor

It must seem to many Kentucky families with children that they are running in place. These families are working to get ahead but still remain in poverty. In 1990, for at least half of all poor families, parents reported that they were working or actively seeking work.



Young parents, those under 30, were in fact, more likely to be in the labor force than older parents. The exception was for young single mothers who may be more burdened with responsibilities for young children. But even for this group, almost one half were in the labor force. This finding counters the myth that young single mothers have their babies and just collect welfare benefits.

Conclusion

As our understanding of poverty among Kentucky families grows, we recognize that reforms to welfare are not the only answer to provide economic prosperity to families. Increasingly, demographers and other experts are studying the consequences of a major restructuring of our economy which has changed the numbers and nature of jobs available. Families are living each day in this restructured economy, and especially young families with children are finding the going very tough indeed.

Besides making the case for more education and training, the 1994 KIDS COUNT report makes a strong argument for providing health care and child care to families. When Kentucky families find it impossible to increase their wages, due to limited job opportunities, providing such benefits helps to stretch their incomes. For families on welfare, health care and child care are often major stumbling blocks to becoming self sufficient. Merely forcing people on welfare to work will not make families self sufficient and will not provide a minimal standard of living for children.

Data Source

The data analysis above was completed by the Center for Urban and Economic Research at the University of Louisville using the 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census Public Use Micro Date Sample (5 percent).

STATE AND COUNTY DATA

The following section of the 1994 KIDS COUNT Data Book contains a statistical portrait of children in the state and in each of the 120 counties in Kentucky. A narrative description of trends and overarching findings precedes each of the six sections: child poverty, Kentucky births, births to teens, single parents, students in school, and child abuse and neglect.

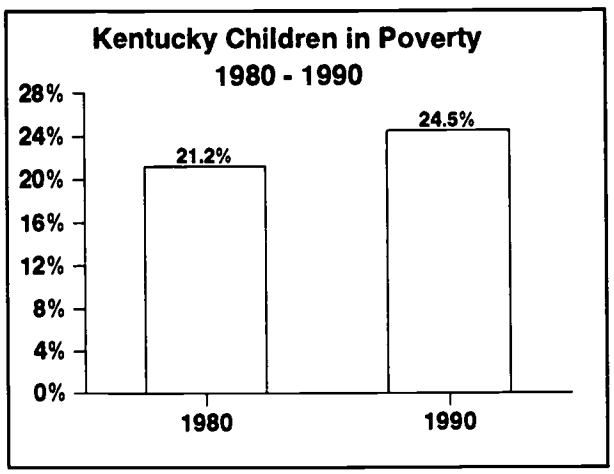
A Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Chart is available separately that provides the most recent state and county data on ten selected indicators of child well-being. The counties' performances are ranked in the ten indicators.

CHILD POVERTY

No single measurement of children's status says more about life chances than the rate of poverty among children. Children in poverty are more likely to suffer from any number of negative outcomes: from poor health to poor educational performance to low self esteem.

Children in Poverty

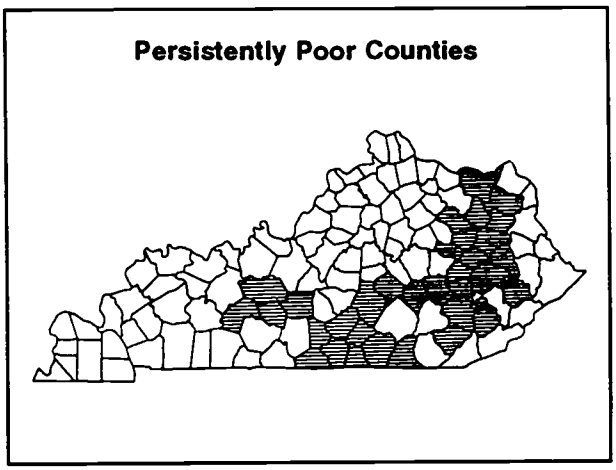
For the first time in America's history, children now constitute the age group of society with the highest rate of poverty. The most accurate measure of poverty county by county for Kentucky is the U.S. Census. In 1990, the Census reported that almost one in four (24.5 percent) of Kentucky's children was poor. This proportion is up from one in five (21.2 percent) ten years earlier in 1980.



Places in Poverty

Just as poverty negatively affects the life chances of children, it handicaps communities and diminishes the opportunities available to children within them.

Kentucky has 34 counties which are classified as persistently poor. Persistently poor counties are those whose median per capita incomes have been in the bottom fifth of a ranking of U.S. counties since 1950. These counties offer fewer and lower paying job opportunities to families.



Definitions and Sources

The number of children in 1980 and 1990 under 18 is taken from the U.S. Census.

The percent of related children under 18 years living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level is reported by the U.S. Census.

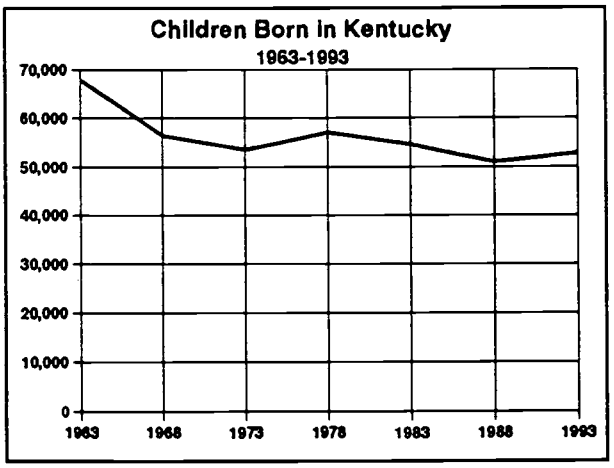
The poverty level set by the federal government is based on size of family. Official federal poverty levels are indexed each year for inflation. For 1994, the poverty limits are: family of 1, $7,517; family of 2, $9,726; family of 3, $11,521; family of 4, $14,764; and family of 5, $17,459.

Children in Poverty in Kentucky

	1980		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Kentucky	235,530	22.0	234,012	24.8
Adair	1,460	33.7	1,156	31.7
Allen	780	20.1	1,142	29.9
Anderson	423	11.2	428	11.3
Ballard	365	15.3	403	21.1
Barren	2,012	21.3	2,217	26.4
Bath	979	33.2	784	32.7
Bell	4,313	39.1	3,811	44.8
Boone	1,250	8.2	1,609	9.6
Bourbon	1,412	24.9	1,179	23.5
Boyd	2,628	17.3	2,649	22.2
Boyle	1,370	20.4	1,416	23.6
Bracken	430	18.6	519	26.1
Breathitt	2,509	42.8	2,088	47.1
Breckinridge	1,354	26.7	1,194	28.4
Bullitt	1,821	11.4	1,701	12.3
Butler	713	21.7	861	28.9
Caldwell	476	13.8	899	28.5
Calloway	1,068	16.9	1,228	20.6
Campbell	3,338	13.5	3,526	15.8
Carlisle	291	19.4	233	19.2
Carroll	647	23.7	829	33.4
Carter	2,593	32.3	2,333	36.3
Casey	1,967	42.7	1,233	33.5
Christian	5,573	28.5	4,580	25.6
Clark	1,773	20.5	1,791	23.6
Clay	4,108	50.4	3,122	47.7
Clinton	1,332	48.3	1,031	45.1
Crittenden	518	21.2	592	25.8
Cumberland	685	35.3	603	37.1
Daviess	3,636	14.1	4,933	21.2
Edmonson	765	24.8	810	30.0
Elliott	903	37.9	843	45.2
Estill	1,575	34.2	1,418	36.7
Fayette	8,863	17.3	9,392	18.8
Fleming	961	26.4	948	30.5
Floyd	4,547	28.4	4,791	38.6
Franklin	1,494	13.0	1,622	15.5
Fulton	896	35.4	878	42.2
Gallatin	278	17.9	230	15.5
Garrard	725	25.2	613	22.2
Grant	608	14.6	956	21.2
Graves	1,386	15.5	1,811	22.2
Grayson	1,624	25.8	1,602	30.1
Green	845	28.4	560	23.8
Greenup	1,940	15.6	2,173	23.2
Hancock	406	15.7	501	21.6
Hardin	4,619	18.9	4,487	18.1
Harlan	4,361	31.7	4,239	40.5
Harrison	979	22.8	812	18.9
Hart	1,527	33.4	1,275	32.9
Henderson	1,630	13.7	2,085	18.5
Henry	857	23.4	782	24.0
Hickman	353	22.1	336	25.9
Hopkins	2,319	17.3	2,608	22.0
Jackson	1,779	45.6	1,559	45.6
Jefferson	31,471	16.8	33,147	20.7
Jessamine	1,329	17.0	1,337	16.2
Johnson	2,078	27.0	2,167	34.3
Kenton	5,532	13.5	5,403	14.0
Knott	2,323	36.5	2,583	49.0
Knox	4,586	45.0	4,212	50.5
Larue	924	26.9	675	23.6
Laurel	3,179	25.5	3,530	29.7
Lawrence	1,611	35.7	1,787	45.4
Lee	1,013	42.4	942	47.6
Leslie	2,133	38.9	1,702	41.4
Letcher	3,616	34.5	2,825	36.5
Lewis	1,965	38.9	1,381	38.3
Lincoln	1,951	33.4	1,815	33.7
Livingstone	353	13.9	347	17.1
Logan	1,154	16.9	1,123	17.6
Lyon	173	13.1	227	21.0
McCracken	2,706	16.6	3,325	22.1
McCreary	2,668	46.7	2,679	56.7
McLean	436	14.8	599	25.5
Madison	3,567	27.4	3,207	25.3
Magoffin	2,068	41.0	1,912	48.0
Marion	1,607	26.1	1,308	29.1
Marshall	688	10.2	1,073	16.9
Martin	1,645	31.5	1,673	42.1
Mason	1,195	23.5	1,193	28.4
Meade	1,224	14.8	1,218	15.3
Menifee	548	33.2	563	42.6
Mercer	1,092	20.2	1,094	23.7
Metcalfe	883	32.6	805	36.1
Monroe	1,131	32.0	751	27.6
Montgomery	1,735	27.7	1,346	26.3
Morgan	1,670	43.9	1,482	46.8
Muhlenberg	1,731	18.1	1,994	25.3
Nelson	1,780	19.3	1,494	17.4
Nicholas	495	24.2	491	28.7
Ohio	1,225	18.7	1,661	29.1
Oldham	611	6.8	661	7.0
Owen	731	28.2	550	23.5
Owsley	1,066	57.9	853	64.3
Pendleton	752	21.7	898	26.0
Perry	3,263	28.0	3,360	39.1
Pike	6,473	23.7	6,153	30.5
Powell	1,156	30.4	1,134	33.1
Pulaski	3,468	26.6	3,463	28.8
Robertson	185	29.4	158	31.7
Rockcastle	1,711	38.9	1,504	37.7
Rowan	1,224	25.8	1,370	33.3
Russell	1,541	39.8	1,046	30.1
Scott	1,024	15.8	1,314	20.6
Shelby	1,161	17.3	1,116	17.7
Simpson	855	19.6	827	20.4
Spencer	440	24.1	419	22.6
Taylor	1,353	22.6	1,196	22.7
Todd	822	23.7	566	19.7
Trigg	441	17.0	504	21.3
Trimble	209	11.0	308	19.0
Union	1,414	25.0	1,203	26.0
Warren	3,163	17.0	4,110	22.5
Washington	932	27.8	604	21.3
Wayne	2,153	40.7	2,142	46.2
Webster	897	21.3	652	17.9
Whitley	3,313	32.6	3,873	43.4
Wolfe	849	40.7	1,017	55.2
Woodford	774	14.2	519	10.0

Number of Children Born

Although much of the country still embraces a stereotype of Kentucky women as often barefoot and pregnant, the number of children born in the state is down. In the last thirty years the number of children born in Kentucky has dropped by 22 percent, from 67,910 births in 1963 to 52,893 in 1993. In the last ten years the number of births has remained relatively stable.



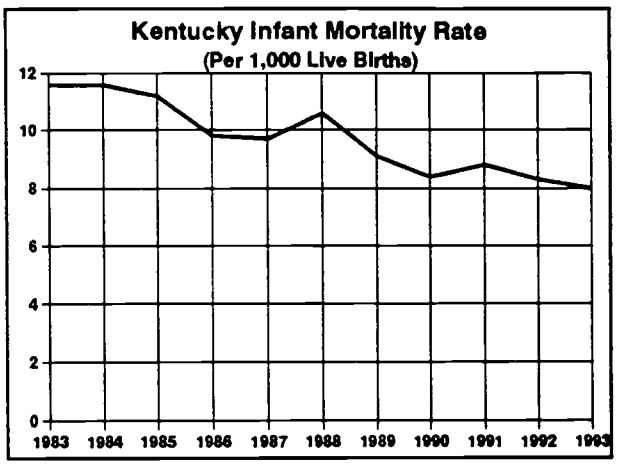
Early Prenatal Care

Health experts agree that early prenatal care, provided during the first trimester of pregnancy, is critical to healthy birth outcomes. Prenatal care is associated with higher birth weights and lower infant mortality rates.

Between 1980-1982 and 1991-1993, the percentage of births with first trimester prenatal care has increased from 70.5 percent to 79.4 percent in Kentucky. This increase is the result of a deliberate public policy choice. In the early 1980s, Kentucky lawmakers began to increase the number of pregnant women eligible for state financed care. As much as possible, Kentucky brought pregnant women into the federal Medicaid program, matching each dollar of state money with approximately three federal dollars. Today a pregnant woman is eligible to receive Medicaid coverage for prenatal care and for her infant until the first birthday if family income is below 185 percent of poverty.

Infant Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate is a generally accepted outcome measure of the health of children. In the last ten years, Kentucky infant deaths per 1,000 live births have dropped from 11.6 in 1983 to 8.0 in 1993. If the 1983 infant mortality rate had continued today, 190 fewer children would have lived to celebrate their first birthday in 1993.



According to the 1994 Kids Count report published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky's infant mortality rate rank is 20 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national goal for the year 2000 is 7 deaths per 1,000 live births. Kentuckians can be proud that our state stands a good chance of achieving this goal.

Definitions and Sources

Early prenatal care is defined as care in the first trimester of pregnancy. The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths before a child's first birthday per 1,000 live births.

All state and county data come from the Cabinet for Human Resources Vital Statistics records taken from birth certificates. Data are averaged for the three years 1991-1993 by the Center for Urban and Economic Research (CUER) at the University of Louisville.

Kentucky Birth Data

Three-Year Average (1991–1993)

	Number of Live Births	% Early Prenatal Care	Infant Mortality Rate*
Kentucky	53,417	79.4	8.4
Adair	207	82.8	9.7
Allen	222	71.6	6.0
Anderson	229	83.4	5.8
Ballard	91	87.5	7.3
Barren	425	85.6	1.6
Bath	131	70.4	12.8
Bell	440	79.6	8.3
Boone	984	83.7	4.7
Bourbon	259	72.1	10.3
Boyd	626	79.7	8.0
Boyle	322	81.4	2.1
Bracken	111	78.7	3.0
Breathitt	228	72.4	16.1
Breckinridge	191	76.8	5.2
Bullitt	761	84.4	9.6
Butler	141	75.4	2.4
Caldwell	151	77.1	15.4
Calloway	328	77.6	9.2
Campbell	1,287	85.6	7.0
Carlisle	55	79.5	0.0
Carroll	129	74.0	5.2
Carter	369	68.2	5.4
Casey	203	74.7	16.4
Christian	1,344	70.0	9.9
Clark	423	76.7	6.3
Clay	385	70.5	12.1
Clinton	109	86.2	6.1
Crittenden	96	74.0	0.0
Cumberland	81	89.3	4.1
Daviess	1,272	80.6	9.4
Edmonson	111	76.9	12.0
Elliott	73	63.9	18.3
Estill	204	75.2	3.3
Fayette	3,477	76.7	8.5
Fleming	164	68.9	8.1
Floyd	633	81.0	6.8
Franklin	604	80.7	6.6
Fulton	109	50.9	0.0
Gallatin	97	82.5	24.0
Garrard	151	80.4	8.8
Grant	267	77.2	7.5
Graves	431	69.8	7.7
Grayson	284	83.7	5.9
Green	113	86.7	11.8
Greenup	399	81.5	0.8
Hancock	98	83.6	6.8
Hardin	1,701	78.7	7.8
Harlan	513	74.2	10.4
Harrison	213	77.1	7.8
Hart	205	78.5	6.5
Henderson	534	76.5	8.1
Henry	193	79.1	13.8
Hickman	52	65.8	6.5
Hopkins	625	75.9	10.7
Jackson	168	74.2	8.0
Jefferson	9,911	82.9	10.0
Jessamine	504	77.1	7.9
Johnson	320	72.8	9.4
Kenton	2,277	80.1	9.2
Knott	234	83.6	19.9
Knox	479	71.9	7.7
Larue	147	80.5	9.0
Laurel	654	76.9	6.1
Lawrence	190	78.1	5.3
Lee	94	73.1	3.5
Leslie	185	78.7	5.4
Letcher	359	87.8	13.9
Lewis	193	80.4	6.9
Lincoln	280	79.2	13.1
Livingston	112	86.3	6.0
Logan	352	67.7	10.4
Lyon	62	81.2	0.0
McCracken	818	86.2	7.3
McCreary	260	80.6	10.3
McLean	125	81.3	13.4
Madison	807	81.9	7.8
Magoffin	213	72.9	6.3
Marion	239	79.2	2.8
Marshall	325	83.5	6.2
Martin	209	73.8	1.6
Mason	230	70.9	10.1
Meade	252	79.1	6.6
Menifee	67	77.6	19.9
Mercer	273	85.4	11.0
Metcalfe	115	89.9	2.9
Monroe	167	82.9	4.0
Montgomery	286	77.0	9.3
Morgan	158	68.5	6.3
Muhlenberg	364	76.0	11.9
Nelson	495	82.1	6.1
Nicholas	83	79.1	0.0
Ohio	265	82.2	6.3
Oldham	447	91.7	4.5
Owen	109	78.4	3.0
Owsley	66	65.8	5.0
Pendleton	196	84.5	6.8
Perry	505	82.9	3.3
Pike	987	77.4	7.1
Powell	181	71.1	12.9
Pulaski	638	89.4	6.8
Robertson	29	74.7	0.0
Rockcastle	186	81.5	14.3
Rowan	269	72.0	7.4
Russell	204	87.1	8.2
Scott	385	75.4	8.7
Shelby	363	79.9	8.3
Simpson	218	69.5	16.8
Spencer	109	82.9	3.0
Taylor	300	85.5	4.4
Todd	152	68.2	8.8
Trigg	126	74.9	5.3
Trimble	75	71.1	4.4
Union	185	70.1	7.2
Warren	1,104	75.1	6.9
Washington	133	78.5	5.0
Wayne	246	87.7	13.6
Webster	177	71.9	3.8
Whitley	497	73.4	8.1
Wolfe	112	66.3	17.9
Woodford	296	83.5	10.1

*Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

BIRTHS TO TEENS

It has been said that the best prevention for teen pregnancy and child bearing is hope. A host of academic studies have linked teen pregnancy and poverty. What is less clear is the direction of that causal link. Some experts suggest that teens with little or no hope for success are more likely to have babies as teens. A childhood spent in poverty often robs teens not just of opportunities to achieve but of their dreams for achievement. Having borne a child as a teen also increases the liklihood that the mother and child will be poor.

Teen Birth Rate

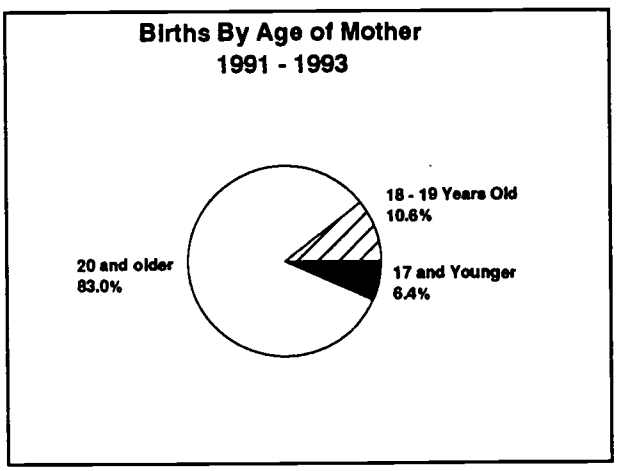
For Kentucky Kids Count, teen birth rates have been defined as the number of births to mothers under 18 per 1,000 females ages 12 to, and including 17. In some Kentucky communities, births to mothers who have finished high school but are still just eighteen or nineteen are not seen as problematic. Teen birth rates for 1991-1993, vary from a low of 6.5 in Oldham County to a rate almost six times higher (35.9) in McCreary County. If you put 1,000 female teens, 12 through 17 years, in a high school gymnasium in Oldham County, 6 or 7 would have children of their own. In McCreary County, 35 or 36 would be teen mothers.

County Teen Birth Rates, per 1000 girls 12-17			
10 Highest Rates		10 Lowest Rates	
McCreary	35.9	Oldham	6.5
Wolfe	34.9	Hancock	7.8
Breathitt	33.2	Hickman	8.1
Bath	32.9	Crittenden	8.7
Knox	32.4	Boone	9.6
Clay	31.3	Trimble	9.6
Owsley	29.9	Lyon	9.7
Bell	29.6	Calloway	9.9
Floyd	29.5	Woodford	10.2
Lewis	28.8	Boyle	10.9

The chart in the opposite column lists the counties with the ten highest and ten lowest teen birth rates. Nine of the ten counties with the highest rates of teen births are in the bottom third of counties ranked according to per capita income. In contrast, six of the ten counties with the lowest rate of teen births come from the third of Kentucky counties with the highest per capita income.

Percent Births to Teens

With the recent attention to teen births many in the public believe that these births represent a very large proportion of all births in Kentucky. Statewide, exactly 17 percent of all births 1991-1993 were to Kentucky teenagers. More than half of these Kentucky teen births were to mothers either 18 or 19 years old.



Definitions and Sources

Teen birth rate is the number of births to mothers 17 and under divided by the total population of females between and including ages 12 and 17 converted to a rate per 1,000.

Percent of births to mothers under 18 and teens 18 and 19 is the percent of all births in Kentucky to mothers in those age categories.

All state and county data come from the Cabinet for Human Resources Vital Statistics records taken from birth certificates. Data are averaged for the three years 1991-1993 by the Center for Urban and Economic Research (CUER) at the University of Louisville.

Kentucky Teen Birth Data

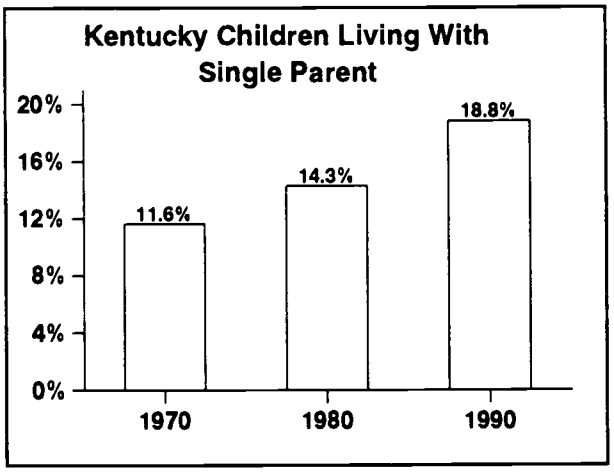
Three-Year Average (1991–1993)

	Teen Birth Rate*	% Births Mothers under 18	% Births Mothers 18–19
Kentucky	21.4	6.4	10.6
Adair	20.2	6.1	11.4
Allen	27.4	7.4	10.8
Anderson	12.7	3.6	8.7
Ballard	22.4	7.7	9.5
Barren	18.8	6.4	10.3
Bath	32.9	10.7	11.5
Bell	29.6	9.2	15.5
Boone	9.6	2.8	7.4
Bourbon	17.5	5.7	11.2
Boyd	14.4	4.6	11.3
Boyle	10.9	3.6	8.8
Bracken	20.8	6.9	11.7
Breathitt	33.2	10.8	13.3
Breckinridge	14.7	5.6	10.6
Bullitt	19.6	6.2	10.0
Butler	28.0	10.2	10.7
Caldwell	26.0	9.3	15.4
Calloway	9.9	3.1	8.9
Campbell	20.9	6.1	8.3
Carlisle	12.0	4.8	10.8
Carroll	15.3	4.9	13.9
Carter	22.1	6.6	12.1
Casey	18.2	5.7	13.5
Christian	27.7	5.3	8.8
Clark	22.9	6.9	12.3
Clay	31.3	9.7	14.7
Clinton	24.3	6.9	11.3
Crittenden	8.7	3.5	9.4
Cumberland	21.5	7.4	11.5
Daviess	17.8	5.3	11.4
Edmonson	21.6	9.0	13.5
Elliott	23.1	11.4	12.3
Estill	21.6	6.5	11.6
Fayette	22.6	5.3	7.8
Fleming	14.1	4.5	8.7
Floyd	29.5	10.0	13.1
Franklin	18.5	5.2	11.4
Fulton	21.8	7.1	14.4
Gallatin	26.4	6.8	9.2
Garrard	16.1	5.1	9.5
Grant	18.1	5.7	11.3
Graves	21.9	6.7	11.5
Grayson	17.9	6.1	14.5
Green	17.8	6.5	15.0
Greenup	13.5	5.7	12.0
Hancock	7.8	3.1	12.6
Hardin	19.7	4.4	10.0
Harlan	27.7	9.5	15.3
Harrison	15.4	5.5	12.1
Hart	24.8	8.1	11.4
Henderson	17.6	6.3	10.4
Henry	22.3	6.6	14.5
Hickman	8.1	3.2	10.3
Hopkins	21.3	6.9	12.4
Jackson	24.9	8.5	14.1
Jefferson	25.8	6.9	9.3
Jessamine	16.3	4.5	9.4
Johnson	25.6	8.5	12.1
Kenton	19.7	5.3	8.4
Knott	26.7	10.2	14.9
Knox	32.4	9.5	13.2
Larue	21.1	7.2	12.4
Laurel	20.7	6.8	11.2
Lawrence	22.7	7.9	12.3
Lee	35.2	9.9	13.1
Leslie	24.5	9.0	13.7
Letcher	23.1	8.8	15.8
Lewis	28.8	9.7	15.4
Lincoln	24.5	7.9	12.6
Livingston	14.9	5.1	9.0
Logan	22.4	6.9	11.6
Lyon	9.7	3.2	7.0
McCracken	20.4	6.6	10.7
McCreary	35.9	11.3	16.3
McLean	16.2	5.3	12.3
Madison	20.0	5.5	10.2
Magoffin	28.7	9.6	13.6
Marion	19.6	6.4	7.7
Marshall	17.5	5.5	8.3
Martin	23.7	8.0	14.4
Mason	21.1	6.8	13.3
Meade	17.0	6.6	11.9
Menifee	18.2	7.0	9.0
Mercer	18.5	5.7	9.5
Metcalfe	22.3	7.5	10.4
Monroe	20.3	6.2	12.2
Montgomery	20.9	6.7	11.8
Morgan	20.9	7.4	12.3
Muhlenberg	20.3	7.6	11.3
Nelson	12.2	3.7	8.5
Nicholas	12.7	4.8	8.4
Ohio	23.9	9.1	13.6
Oldham	6.5	2.5	5.4
Owen	20.7	7.9	8.5
Owsley	29.9	10.6	13.6
Pendleton	20.1	6.1	11.9
Perry	28.7	8.6	14.8
Pike	19.2	6.9	13.3
Powell	21.0	6.6	14.5
Pulaski	20.1	6.8	11.4
Robertson	20.2	6.9	12.6
Rockcastle	25.6	8.8	15.6
Rowan	13.4	3.6	8.0
Russell	28.1	8.7	11.3
Scott	21.7	6.4	10.7
Shelby	16.8	5.2	8.8
Simpson	21.6	6.4	11.0
Spencer	22.3	6.4	11.0
Taylor	24.9	7.1	12.3
Todd	21.0	6.4	8.3
Trigg	17.3	5.8	10.6
Trimble	9.6	3.6	14.7
Union	13.0	6.3	12.9
Warren	19.8	5.8	9.8
Washington	14.5	5.5	5.8
Wayne	27.9	9.4	17.5
Webster	20.1	7.0	14.5
Whitley	24.2	7.7	13.6
Wolfe	34.9	11.0	15.2
Woodford	10.2	3.3	9.0

*Births per 1,000 girls 12–17.

Children Living With a Single Parent

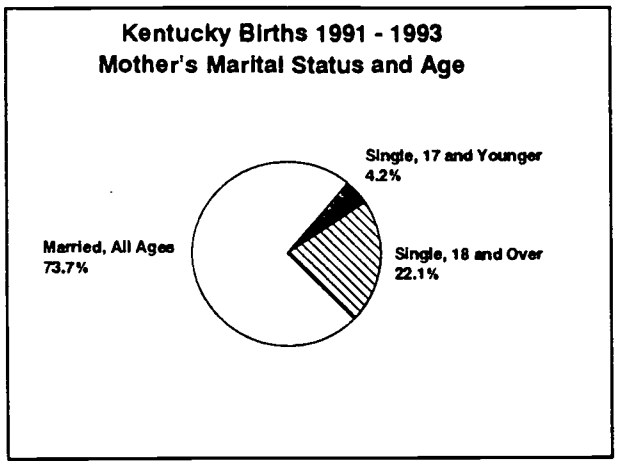
The number of Kentucky children living with a single parent has increased dramatically in the last twenty years. In 1970, 11.6 percent of children lived with only their mother or their father. By 1980, the proportion of children in single parent homes had increased by 62 percent.



Single parent families are more likely to be poor. It is difficult for one wage earner to support a family. Child support is often not collected from the absent parent and even when paid is often inadequate. In Kentucky in 1990, one half of all single mother families were poor and 28 percent of single father families were poor. These rates compare to only 14 percent of all two parent families with incomes below the official poverty level.

Births to Single Mothers

Former Vice President Quayle and fictional television character Murphy Brown focused our attention on the growing phenomenon of births to single mothers. Kentucky is not immune to this trend. About one quarter of all births in the state are to unmarried mothers. Contrary to the myth, these single mothers are more likely to be 18 and older than they are to be young teens.



Children Whose Parents Divorced

During the three year period, 1990-1992, 6.6 percent of all Kentucky children had parents who divorced. In other words, in a group of 100 children, the parents of 6 or 7 of those children would have divorced during the three year period 1990-1992. Such a statistic provides schools and other organizations dealing with children an idea of the numbers of children who at any one time may be dealing with the trauma of divorce. This statistic also corresponds to the often cited prediction that one half of all children born today will live with only one parent at some point in their childhood.

Definitions and Sources

The percentage of children living with a single parent is taken from 1990 U.S. Census data.

All state and county data relating to births to single mothers and children whose parents divorced come from the Cabinet for Human Resources Vital Statistics records taken from birth certificates and divorce records. Birth data are averaged for the three years 1991-1993 and divorce data are added for the three years 1991-1993 by the Center for Urban and Economic Research (CUER) at the University of Louisville.

Single Parents in Kentucky

	1990	% Births 91–93 Avg.		1990–92
	% Children w/Single Parents	Single Mothers	Single Mothers 18 and Over	% Children Parents Divorced
Kentucky	19.5	26.3	22.1	6.6
Adair	14.0	17.6	14.7	4.6
Allen	12.8	16.1	13.1	5.8
Anderson	16.1	19.9	18.3	6.7
Ballard	14.6	21.2	17.2	7.1
Barren	14.8	19.4	16.8	7.8
Bath	18.9	23.0	18.9	7.9
Bell	22.1	28.9	23.7	7.6
Boone	12.7	17.9	16.0	4.1
Bourbon	20.6	26.4	22.5	6.3
Boyd	15.8	22.2	19.1	8.9
Boyle	22.0	25.6	23.3	7.1
Bracken	16.2	22.2	16.8	7.1
Breathitt	18.4	24.3	19.3	5.8
Breckinridge	16.2	22.9	19.2	4.6
Bullitt	13.6	23.9	19.3	6.0
Butler	11.5	15.4	11.8	8.0
Caldwell	21.0	23.1	18.3	5.1
Calloway	15.4	16.8	15.2	7.2
Campbell	19.8	27.1	22.3	6.9
Carlisle	13.8	18.1	14.5	5.7
Carroll	19.4	29.6	26.3	8.8
Carter	17.5	24.8	21.3	5.1
Casey	15.7	17.7	15.4	5.0
Christian	21.7	23.3	19.2	9.0
Clark	15.2	26.7	22.3	7.5
Clay	12.4	21.1	17.4	3.3
Clinton	14.0	15.6	13.8	2.8
Crittenden	15.0	18.4	16.0	5.2
Cumberland	17.7	34.6	30.5	0.0
Daviess	18.6	28.3	24.1	8.6
Edmonson	10.5	18.0	15.3	2.8
Elliott	21.5	21.0	17.8	5.2
Estill	17.0	22.2	19.3	5.8
Fayette	25.5	28.7	24.3	6.4
Fleming	15.2	18.3	15.7	6.7
Floyd	16.1	22.4	17.2	4.3
Franklin	23.1	29.8	26.3	6.0
Fulton	34.6	41.7	36.5	6.5
Gallatin	11.9	23.6	19.9	6.0
Garrard	14.0	21.6	18.3	6.5
Grant	17.3	21.9	18.2	9.0
Graves	16.1	24.5	20.4	5.1
Grayson	18.4	18.3	15.1	8.1
Green	10.1	14.7	13.3	6.0
Greenup	14.6	19.4	15.9	5.3
Hancock	13.0	14.0	11.9	7.2
Hardin	16.9	18.8	15.9	11.0
Harlan	18.4	24.9	19.9	6.8
Harrison	15.7	25.7	21.9	8.0
Hart	15.9	18.9	15.3	7.9
Henderson	20.1	26.5	21.9	2.7
Henry	20.4	30.8	26.1	8.0
Hickman	22.9	31.0	29.0	6.5
Hopkins	19.1	23.4	19.2	7.5
Jackson	12.9	19.3	16.5	6.0
Jefferson	27.8	38.2	31.9	6.5
Jessamine	14.9	20.5	17.6	4.8
Johnson	16.0	20.5	16.0	9.2
[illegible]	20.2	27.4	23.0	4.8
Knott	19.9	24.0	18.2	1.5
Knox	22.6	24.0	19.8	5.7
Larue	16.4	25.6	21.0	6.1
Laurel	14.3	19.9	17.2	7.7
Lawrence	17.2	19.5	15.8	7.1
Lee	24.4	17.7	14.1	4.6
Leslie	21.2	27.2	23.1	5.0
Letcher	15.7	22.5	18.0	6.8
Lewis	15.9	22.8	18.2	8.0
Lincoln	14.7	22.3	18.1	1.6
Livingston	11.2	13.7	11.0	8.4
Logan	16.4	23.4	19.3	11.8
Lyon	12.4	16.7	15.1	5.9
McCracken	23.2	31.5	26.2	7.9
McCreary	21.5	30.4	25.0	6.7
McLean	16.4	20.3	17.4	7.1
Madison	17.7	22.3	19.5	6.8
Magoffin	16.1	21.3	18.2	1.7
Marion	18.2	25.0	20.5	6.1
Marshall	10.5	14.3	11.6	6.6
Martin	15.5	20.3	17.7	7.9
Mason	19.3	26.8	23.5	7.6
Meade	10.5	23.8	19.4	4.4
Menifee	20.8	12.4	10.0	7.0
Mercer	16.3	19.4	16.2	9.9
Metcalfe	12.7	14.5	12.4	5.8
Monroe	14.5	20.5	17.9	5.0
Montgomery	17.5	20.7	16.0	6.7
Morgan	14.6	17.1	16.1	7.5
Muhlenberg	17.1	21.2	17.2	7.9
Nelson	18.2	26.9	24.2	6.4
Nicholas	17.0	21.7	20.1	8.1
Ohio	12.8	20.5	17.1	8.9
Oldham	13.5	15.4	13.4	5.7
Owen	15.2	25.6	21.3	7.4
Owsley	19.6	26.6	20.6	6.2
Pendleton	14.6	21.6	18.7	7.3
Perry	18.1	23.5	19.7	7.1
Pike	13.9	19.6	16.6	7.9
Powell	19.1	29.5	26.2	7.6
Pulaski	16.2	19.6	16.8	7.7
Robertson	17.5	21.8	18.4	5.5
Rockcastle	15.1	19.4	15.9	7.1
Rowan	17.7	19.2	17.1	7.1
Russell	18.5	15.5	12.4	5.7
Scott	20.4	25.5	21.5	6.0
Shelby	16.5	28.1	23.9	8.2
Simpson	20.5	27.0	23.2	7.1
Spencer	11.3	23.5	18.6	4.8
Taylor	18.3	21.8	18.1	8.7
Todd	15.5	24.6	21.1	7.1
Trigg	14.8	24.1	21.4	8.1
Trimble	11.2	25.3	23.1	9.6
Union	18.9	31.3	27.2	7.0
Warren	20.5	27.1	23.4	3.9
Washington	10.3	22.5	19.5	4.7
Wayne	13.2	14.8	11.3	6.4
Webster	13.1	25.7	20.9	6.4
Whitley	22.7	24.4	20.6	6.3
Wolfe	26.9	25.4	19.4	6.4
Woodford	12.7	16.3	14.7	2.8

Schools have been the focus of much attention in Kentucky for a number of years. In 1989, the state Supreme Court declared the entire system of schooling in the state unconstitutional. One year later, the General Assembly passed the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA). The new law provides additional resources to schools, allocates resources more equitably among schools, and demands that schools be accountable. An assessment process was established to track educational outcomes for students and reward schools that have increased achievement for students. Although some measures for this assessment process are now available, the complete measures and determination of rewards and sanctions for individual schools will not be completed for the first time until 1995.

Transition from School to Adult Life

Under KERA, schools are required to follow students after they graduate from high school to determine how successfully they have made the transition to adult life. This transition rate measures the percentage of graduates who have gone on to further school, either vocational or college, and those who are employed, either part or full-time. Transition rates for graduates of the 1992-1993 school year vary from a high of 100 percent in some districts to a low of 68.5 percent.

High School Dropouts

Graduation rates in Kentucky have long lagged behind the rest of the nation. Without higher high school graduation rates, Kentucky will not have a labor force prepared for the work of the future which will require more technical skills, greater reasoning and problem solving abilities, and considerably higher degrees of literacy.

A second assessment measure schools are collecting under KERA is a newly defined dropout rate. This rate measures the percentage of students enrolled in grades 7-12 who do not enroll in school the next year. Students who did not graduate and who do not return to the same school are tracked. If it cannot be documented that the students are enrolled in another school, the students are considered dropouts.

Statewide the dropout rate in 1992-1993 was 3.5 percent, but rates varied among districts from over 8 percent in several districts to zero or near zero in others. It is important to remember that a dropout rate of four percent, for instance, does not mean that all but four percent of students graduated from high school. The rate does mean that over the course of a school year and the beginning of the next year four percent of all students in grades 7-12 left school. The dropout rate is not comparable to the graduation rate (or holding power) which measures the percentage of a ninth grade class graduating four years later.

Students on Free and Reduced Lunch

The percentage of students on free and reduced lunch is not an outcome measure for schools, but is a measure of need within a school district. The free and reduced lunch program is a program for which children qualify based on their families' incomes. Students are eligible for reduced price lunch (and breakfast where available) if their families' incomes are equal to or less than 185 percent of the official federal poverty level.

KERA recognizes that students from poor families tend to have greater difficulties in school. The state funding formula provides additional per student amounts for students eligible for the school lunch program. However, KERA does not excuse schools from posting academic improvements for students because of high poverty levels within their school.

Definitions and Sources

Transition rates, dropout rates, and students on free and reduced lunch are percentages. The data were provided by the Kentucky Department of Education.

The poverty level set by the federal government is based on size of family. Official federal poverty levels are indexed each year for inflation. For 1994, the poverty limits and thus eligibility for free lunch are: family of 1, $7,517; family of 2, $9,726; family of 3, $11,521; family of 4, $14,764; and family of 5, $17,459. Eligibility for reduced lunch is set at 185% of these amounts.

Kentucky School Districts

Student Outcomes 1992–1993
Free and Reduced Lunch 1993–1994

	Transition Rate	Dropout Rate	% Students F-R Lunch
Kentucky	92.5	3.5	45.8
Adair Co	94.1	3.2	50.7
Allen Co	100.0	3.1	39.2
Anchorage Ind	N/A*	0.0	1.6
Anderson Co	98.0	4.6	28.5
Ashland Ind	92.8	2.4	40.5
Augusta Ind	93.8	5.4	65.6
Ballard Co	90.9	2.7	37.8
Barbourville Ind	97.9	2.5	57.8
Bardstown Ind	91.6	4.1	49.5
Barren Co	90.1	3.8	31.4
Bath Co	94.8	4.0	58.4
Beechwood Ind	100.0	0.2	5.3
Bell Co	93.0	4.0	71.8
Bellevue Ind	100.0	2.7	46.9
Berea Ind	90.4	1.1	39.1
Boone Co	97.7	2.4	21.6
Bourbon Co	94.7	4.4	42.3
Bowling Green Ind	97.0	2.3	44.8
Boyd Co	96.0	1.2	36.1
Boyle Co	96.7	1.1	26.9
Bracken Co	93.2	1.0	46.0
Breathitt Co	96.1	4.2	76.3
Breckinridge Co	89.1	2.4	53.0
Bullitt Co	92.7	2.5	38.7
Burgin Ind	100.0	2.1	24.9
Butler Co	94.8	3.6	52.1
Caldwell Co	86.4	2.9	40.4
Calloway Co	95.7	1.8	41.2
Campbell Co	93.6	1.0	17.9
Campbellsville Ind	90.6	3.5	47.3
Carlisle Co	98.4	2.6	38.4
Carroll Co	87.1	3.4	47.6
Carter Co	78.2	4.4	56.1
Casey Co	90.5	2.8	59.2
Caverna Ind	86.9	1.9	44.8
Christian Co	89.5	4.8	54.8
Clark Co	92.6	4.2	43.6
Clay Co	68.5	6.8	71.9
Clinton Co	89.4	5.6	79.5
Cloverport Ind	92.6	1.7	57.1
Corbin Ind	95.5	3.6	41.2
Covington Ind	89.2	5.2	66.3
Crittenden Co	94.7	1.9	31.7
Cumberland Co	100.0	3.2	72.1
Danville Ind	97.1	0.5	41.7
Daviess Co	95.5	1.7	29.3
Dawson Springs Ind	94.9	3.2	43.3
Dayton Ind	94.2	2.3	64.4
East Bernstadt Ind	N/A*	0.0	58.3
Edmonson Co	88.7	5.5	49.1
Elizabethtown Ind	97.7	0.8	36.5
Elliott Co	71.3	2.5	68.0
Eminence Ind	96.7	2.4	59.1
Erlanger-Elsmere	98.3	1.9	28.2
Estill Co	89.0	4.9	55.6
Fairview Ind	94.8	1.1	36.9
Fayette Co	97.6	8.8	32.7
Fleming Co	92.7	2.7	55.1
Floyd Co	92.0	3.4	64.2
Ft Thomas Ind	100.0	0.1	5.7
Frankfort Ind	88.1	3.1	52.2
Franklin Co	97.5	1.9	24.4
Fulton Co	97.6	4.4	73.3
Fulton Ind	87.2	0.8	59.7
Gallatin Co	97.8	5.4	48.1
Garrard Co	90.9	4.1	46.0
Glasgow Ind	89.7	5.0	31.4
Grant Co	93.4	4.1	45.4
Graves Co	98.0	2.9	31.9
Grayson Co	85.9	2.1	44.2
Green Co	93.3	2.1	40.9
Greenup Co	88.7	3.9	55.4
Hancock Co	97.1	0.1	27.8
Hardin Co	95.8	3.1	47.5
Harlan Co	86.5	4.4	73.8
Harlan Ind	85.3	2.2	48.8
Harrison Co	99.5	2.3	34.8
Harrodsburg Ind	98.3	2.2	51.4
Hart Co	90.8	3.9	56.4
Hazard Ind	100.0	2.5	41.1
Henderson Co	90.9	2.5	37.1
Henry Co	89.5	6.0	45.4
Hickman Co	98.4	3.3	50.4
Hopkins Co	94.1	2.6	35.9
Jackson Co	94.4	5.3	79.9
Jackson Ind	100.0	1.2	74.3
Jefferson Co	90.2	3.3	45.9
Jenkins Ind	93.4	2.1	58.4
Jessamine Co	94.2	4.2	33.9
Johnson Co	90.4	3.3	66.2
Kenton Co	95.9	1.8	23.0
Knott Co	84.2	3.4	82.5
Knox Co	88.6	4.3	82.4
Larue Co	94.4	2.9	40.5
Laurel Co	91.7	6.6	49.6
Lawrence Co	83.7	3.7	68.5
Lee Co	92.6	0.8	74.9
Leslie Co	79.7	3.2	71.0
Letcher Co	91.4	2.2	64.0
Lewis Co	93.7	2.3	56.7
Lincoln Co	85.6	5.6	46.9
Livingston Co	87.1	2.9	37.8
Logan Co	95.8	3.3	39.2
Ludlow Ind	98.2	1.5	36.9
Lyon Co	93.2	1.6	27.5
Madison Co	98.1	2.4	42.5
Magoffin Co	81.6	3.2	76.2
Marion Co	93.1	2.8	57.1
Marshall Co	97.4	3.6	27.8
Martin Co	96.6	5.1	54.2
Mason Co	94.9	2.1	44.8
Mayfield Ind	95.4	2.3	57.9
McCracken Co	95.6	1.4	25.6
McCreary Co	92.3	8.2	85.7
McLean Co	94.2	3.4	35.6
Meade Co	86.0	3.3	38.8
Menifee Co	95.7	8.7	69.7
Mercer Co	89.2	1.8	25.2
Metcalfe Co	97.8	3.5	62.6
Middlesboro Ind	95.7	6.7	64.9
Monroe Co	95.4	1.2	57.6
Montgomery Co	84.9	4.3	49.2
Monticello Ind	92.7	3.2	70.2
Morgan Co	92.6	3.8	69.3
Muhlenberg Co	92.7	4.0	39.4
Murray Ind	100.0	1.0	28.4
Nelson Co	94.6	4.8	39.5
Newport Ind	79.8	7.9	66.0
Nicholas Co	94.5	4.7	48.0
Ohio Co	91.1	2.5	47.8
Oldham Co	97.3	1.3	17.5
Owen Co	95.1	2.8	44.3
Owensboro Ind	89.4	4.2	62.2
Owsley Co	82.5	5.0	89.4
Paducah Ind	94.6	2.7	60.9
Paintsville Ind	100.0	0.0	39.9
Paris Ind	93.0	1.0	35.8
Pendleton Co	96.5	3.2	41.3
Perry Co	94.4	5.9	70.9
Pike Co	86.7	2.9	51.0
Pikeville Ind	96.2	3.3	31.1
Pineville Ind	91.9	4.2	73.1
Powell Co	95.0	3.4	61.1
Providence Ind	92.6	3.2	57.5
Pulaski Co	86.5	3.4	53.5
Raceland Ind	96.0	1.0	28.2
Robertson Co	75.0	8.6	50.4
Rockcastle Co	90.5	3.2	65.3
Rowan Co	93.2	2.4	56.0
Russell Co	89.3	4.2	51.9
Russell Ind	94.9	2.1	17.2
Russellville Ind	87.3	3.4	55.0
Science Hill Ind	N/A*	0.0	50.1
Scott Co	95.7	3.5	32.7
Shelby Co	94.3	3.4	35.2
Silver Grove Ind	90.0	2.1	47.4
Simpson Co	95.5	2.8	31.6
Somerset Ind	98.3	3.2	42.8
Southgate Ind	N/A*	0.0	28.6
Spencer Co	88.4	4.5	44.0
Taylor Co	93.2	2.3	26.6
Todd Co	100.0	3.4	47.2
Trigg Co	98.1	3.5	43.1
Trimble Co	90.9	2.8	42.8
Union Co	92.2	2.1	31.4
Walton Verona Ind	100.0	1.4	26.0
Warren Co	97.3	1.8	33.2
Washington Co	82.7	2.5	44.5
Wayne Co	88.6	2.1	76.1
Webster Co	95.3	2.9	29.6
West Point Ind	N/A*	6.8	73.1
Whitley Co	89.6	3.9	79.1
Williamsburg Ind	91.5	2.9	47.3
Williamstown Ind	96.9	2.9	48.6
Wolfe Co	100.0	2.5	82.4
Woodford Co	99.5	4.9	18.4

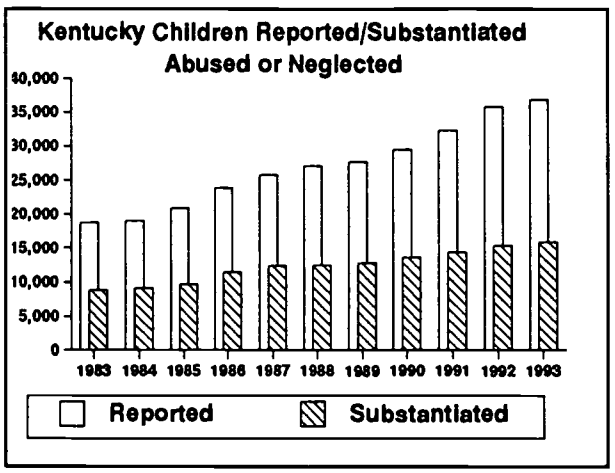
*These districts have no high school.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

As a society we have only begun to grasp the full reality of the trauma to individual children caused by child abuse and neglect. Often children are twice victimized — once at the hands of the perpetrator of the abuse and again by the service systems and courts that supposedly intervene in the child's best interest.

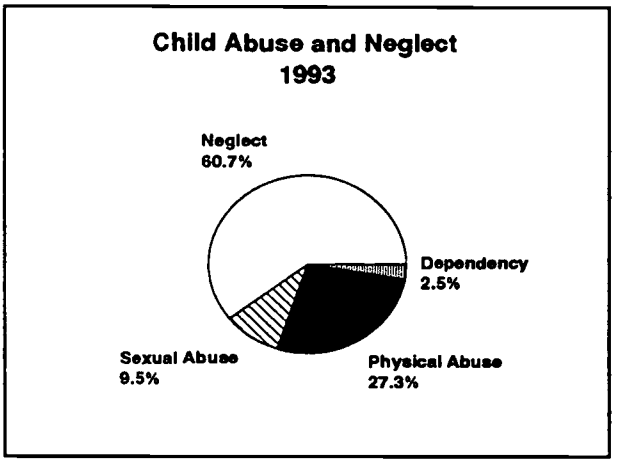
Child Abuse and Neglect Trends Are Up

The numbers of children reported abused and neglected are up sharply in the last decade, nearly doubling between 1983 and 1993. Once a report of child abuse or neglect is made to authorities, it is investigated and if sufficient evidence is available, the abuse or neglect is considered substantiated. A substantiated case allows authorities to take action to protect the child from further harm. During the last ten years, the proportion of reports substantiated remained around 45 percent.



Neglect Most Common

The most common form of child mistreatment is neglect. Child neglect may mean that the child's parent or guardian has failed to provide adequate material resources, like food, housing, or health care. But neglect also may include mental or emotional neglect, lack of adequate supervision, and abandonment. In 1993, of the reported incidences of child abuse and neglect, 60.7 percent were child neglect.



Child Sexual Abuse

Experts believe that as many as one in four girls and one in six boys will be the victims of child sexual abuse before they reach eighteen. While child sexual abuse is a topic most people would rather ignore, increasingly more often the abuse is being reported. In the last ten years, the number of reports has more than tripled.

Definitions and Sources

Physical abuse refers to an intentional act that injures a child by a parent or other person exercising custodial control or supervision.

Sexual abuse includes fondling, sexual exploitation, rape, and sodomy.

Neglect includes deprivation of necessities, mental or emotional neglect, lack of supervision, or abandonment.

Dependency refers to a child who is under improper care, custody, control, or guardianship, in a situation that is not due to an intentional act of the parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child.

The data on the numbers of incidences of reported and substantiated abuse are from the Department for Social Services, Cabinet for Human Resources. A report is considered substantiated after state officials complete an investigation and determine that further action is justified to protect the child.

Child Abuse in Kentucky

Number of Incidents Reported/Substantiated
Fiscal Year 1993

	Physical	Sexual	Neglect	Dependency
Kentucky	17,814/7,087	6,202/2,631	39,686/15,592	1,632/1,240
Adair	19/9	2/1	22/20	2/2
Allen	41/21	23/12	100/45	3/3
Anderson	65/38	26/15	197/102	0/0
Ballard	48/24	7/3	51/20	1/0
Barren	143/66	38/14	318/121	0/0
Bath	56/21	34/12	168/77	0/0
Bell	141/46	34/7	260/53	0/0
Boone	272/99	106/38	440/163	63/43
Bourbon	117/56	36/16	332/198	1/1
Boyd	181/66	69/25	528/113	4/3
Boyle	178/101	42/18	265/140	0/0
Bracken	67/35	19/2	233/158	0/0
Breathitt	137/55	60/19	411/109	22/22
Breckenridge	54/21	16/8	144/42	0/0
Bullitt	256/78	88/37	386/88	6/1
Butler	75/12	27/4	218/46	0/0
Caldwell	49/21	12/5	116/47	0/0
Calloway	148/60	40/20	255/143	2/2
Campbell	327/124	97/47	718/270	181/139
Carlisle	10/3	3/2	59/19	0/0
Carroll	55/11	18/3	66/15	1/0
Carter	152/59	67/31	544/206	3/0
Casey	48/22	21/10	115/53	0/0
Christian	278/96	71/33	589/191	0/0
Clark	196/54	73/30	239/56	3/0
Clay	116/52	30/7	329/108	0/0
Clinton	22/13	16/8	89/45	0/0
Crittenden	21/8	4/3	57/26	0/0
Cumberland	25/15	5/3	55/39	1/1
Daviess	498/159	148/49	1,606/622	35/30
Edmonson	18/1	12/2	37/5	0/0
Elliott	31/10	7/4	118/46	0/0
Estill	63/26	21/7	246/105	0/0
Fayette	846/344	403/173	1,570/731	31/26
Fleming	40/21	18/7	85/51	0/0
Floyd	264/72	80/24	580/87	3/2
Franklin	253/54	90/37	312/42	3/3
Fulton	33/27	9/3	105/79	0/0
Gallatin	15/5	9/2	23/7	3/2
Garrard	65/26	15/5	145/29	2/0
Grant	109/42	27/9	278/125	0/0
Graves	113/50	38/11	293/122	0/0
Grayson	84/30	42/16	187/70	3/2
Green	35/16	8/1	111/64	2/2
Greenup	110/20	38/6	320/32	12/3
Hancock	36/13	16/6	102/33	0/0
Hardin	464/215	111/49	980/506	22/17
Harlan	137/25	43/21	508/87	4/4
Harrison	44/14	12/2	116/55	1/0
Hart	90/34	28/11	120/31	0/0
Henderson	166/41	84/36	303/90	9/9
Henry	90/28	36/12	228/96	1/1
Hickman	15/9	7/2	39/27	0/0
Hopkins	144/64	90/38	359/119	2/0
Jackson	27/7	13/9	65/19	0/0
Jefferson	4,036/1,942	1,118/539	6,190/3,003	525/361
Jessamine	241/61	83/31	496/109	3/1
Johnson	218/64	84/38	686/172	6/3
Kenton	735/275	251/116	1,761/668	450/368
Knott	84/24	22/8	265/103	0/0
Knox	117/36	92/41	382/81	4/4
Larue	86/32	10/4	183/88	1/0
Laurel	208/73	82/32	413/115	2/2
Lawrence	88/21	26/11	242/69	3/3
Lee	39/21	20/6	108/59	0/0
Leslie	40/10	22/5	107/45	4/2
Letcher	148/63	63/40	610/299	0/0
Lewis	51/27	24/9	239/128	0/0
Lincoln	131/60	47/18	344/70	0/0
Livingston	25/8	8/3	73/5	0/0
Logan	59/21	14/6	137/64	0/0
Lyon	10/3	5/1	29/12	0/0
McCracken	313/156	127/61	581/329	13/13
McCreary	41/11	11/5	79/32	0/0
McLean	24/13	21/6	142/86	1/1
Madison	226/91	107/45	653/280	22/11
Magoffin	116/55	42/6	310/112	0/0
Marion	20/11	21/12	34/16	0/0
Marshall	90/41	34/19	285/130	0/0
Martin	168/49	57/29	478/99	0/0
Mason	61/29	13/5	168/105	0/0
Meade	31/7	15/3	56/23	4/4
Menifee	40/22	10/4	91/61	1/1
Mercer	99/39	34/21	196/60	0/0
Metcalfe	45/16	29/14	102/45	7/7
Monroe	51/20	18/4	129/38	3/3
Montgomery	117/45	21/10	322/115	1/0
Morgan	60/21	13/8	322/181	1/1
Muhlenberg	103/11	30/11	290/36	0/0
Nelson	66/26	18/4	102/39	14/13
Nicholas	38/16	6/2	46/9	0/0
Ohio	85/24	41/12	233/42	1/1
Oldham	147/74	66/25	202/72	6/6
Owen	62/27	13/4	114/60	5/5
Owsley	17/8	13/9	92/52	0/0
Pendleton	66/22	9/4	229/104	0/0
Perry	189/58	47/17	717/287	30/28
Pike	218/94	84/46	761/268	30/28
Powell	60/17	21/8	200/73	0/0
Pulaski	164/64	198/57	302/91	9/9
Robertson	16/10	4/3	65/53	0/0
Rockcastle	118/36	22/10	261/93	1/0
Rowan	108/54	24/13	356/203	1/0
Russell	20/6	17/5	48/14	15/13
Scott	115/56	65/30	300/176	0/0
Shelby	65/32	75/32	199/136	15/9
Simpson	71/24	30/16	151/50	1/1
Spencer	25/7	20/14	59/41	0/0
Taylor	80/25	37/18	257/97	15/14
Todd	22/10	19/14	98/15	2/0
Trigg	21/14	8/2	31/21	0/0
Trimble	54/31	8/3	83/36	0/0
Union	46/11	19/8	146/49	0/0
Warren	373/123	91/40	826/241	4/4
Washington	20/12	5/5	62/20	0/0
Wayne	88/46	30/11	115/47	0/0
Webster	65/18	25/7	176/39	0/0
Whitley	144/46	52/21	368/128	3/3
Wolfe	75/25	15/8	200/104	0/0
Woodford	167/54	56/36	244/101	3/3

WHAT CAN I DO?

Act as an individual. Children need individual attention. While this attention most often comes from parents and other family members, important one-on-one relationships can be formed with other adults.

- With your own children — be a better parent or grandparent.
- With other people's children — be a friend, volunteer, mentor, or advocate.
- Listen to children's voices — often we don't take seriously what children tell us. Allegations of abuse, daily worries, and dreams for the future should not be dismissed.
- Speak out when you witness a child being mistreated.

Act as a community. Children are not the sole responsibility of parents. Communities — and the institutions within communities — have a role to play in the development of children.

- Support local schools and education reform efforts, whether or not you have children in school.
- Negotiate with your employer to make the workplace more "family friendly" by promoting personnel policies which allow parents to participate more fully in their children's lives. Besides directly helping parents, these policies also may improve morale and productivity.
- Volunteer with civic and church groups that provide programs for children and their families. There is always something satisfying to do to help.
- Contribute financially to some of the many private non-profit organizations that work on behalf of children and their families.
- Identify a need in your community and create a new program to help children. In this way, whole groups of children can be helped.

Act politically. Public policies concerning education, social services, job training, and economic development have real impact on children and families.

- ☑ Inform yourself — use the information in this book to begin to understand children's issues in Kentucky and your own community.
- ☑ Inform others — spread the word and recruit others to your advocacy campaign.
- ☑ Demand action — results will come when enough people demand change in the way children are treated. Children can never have too many active friends.

If you would like more information on these activities, call Kentucky Youth Advocates in Louisville (502) 895-8167 or in Frankfort (502) 875-4865.

THE KENTUCKY KIDS COUNT CONSORTIUM

Kentucky KIDS COUNT is a unique consortium of researchers and children's activists who have significant expertise in the aggregation, interpretation, and use of data to impact public policy. The Consortium's work includes producing a series of reports on children and families to publicize the needs of children, influence budget and program decisions, and monitor state and local performance for children.

The Kentucky KIDS COUNT Consortium is part of the national KIDS COUNT project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. The Foundation publishes a national report each year and funds state groups to publish data reports on the status of children in their states.

The Consortium includes individuals from three Kentucky universities and one statewide child advocacy organization. The members of the Consortium are:

Ronald Crouch
Director, Kentucky State Data Center, University of Louisville;
Center for Urban and Economic Research,

Lorraine Garkovich, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Rural Sociology,
College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky;

Stephan Gohmann, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Economics,
University of Louisville;

Gary Hansen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Rural Sociology,
College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky;

Debra Miller
Deputy Director, Kentucky Youth Advocates;

Betty Olinger, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs, Kentucky State University;

Michael Price, Ph.D.
State Demographer, Center for Urban and Economic Research,
University of Louisville;

David W. Richart
Executive Director, Kentucky Youth Advocates;

Carol M. Straus
Senior Research Associate,
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Kentucky; and

Stephan M. Wilson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Family Studies,
Research Center for Families and Children, University of Kentucky.

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Signature: Debra S Miller

Printed Name/Position/Title: Debra S Miller Deputy Director

Organization/Address: 624 Shelby St. Ky Youth Advocates Frankfort Ky 40601

Telephone: 502/875-4865

FAX: 502/875-2507

E-Mail Address: HN3181@handsnet.org

Date: 12/2/96

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